

**FOSTER CARE STRUCTURED
DECISION MAKING
UPDATED SERVICE PLAN**
Michigan Family Independence Agency

FC Case #:	x2325462a
FC Case Name:	Keast
FIA FC Worker Load #:	0214
FIA FC Worker Name:	Kathy Sholty
PS Case #:	
PS Case Name:	
Court ID #:	
POS Agency Name:	
POS Agency Worker Name:	

Report Period: 4/14/05 to 7/14/05

Date of Report: 7/12/05

County of Commitment or Referral: Newaygo

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Child(ren):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Date Entered Care</u>	<u>Current Placement Type</u>	<u>Date of Current Placement</u>	<u>Perm. Plan Goal Code</u>
Alyssa	1/22/2000	x2325462a	3/14/05	Foster Home	7/1/05	8 = Return Home
Child's Address (if not FH)						
Native American?	No	If Yes, Tribal Affiliation				

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Date Entered Care</u>	<u>Current Placement Type</u>	<u>Date of Current Placement</u>	<u>Perm. Plan Goal Code</u>
Amber	8/18/2002	x1437623a	3/14/05	Foster Home	7/01/2005	8 = Return Home
Child's Address (if not FH)						
Native American?	No	If Yes, Tribal Affiliation				

Parent (Caretaker) Name(s):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Child(ren)</u>	<u>Participating?</u>
Erica Keast	mother	all	1. Yes, participating in reunification pl
Parent's Current Address	4173 E 104th St Grant	Date of Birth	11/7/78 Phone Number 834 0457

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Child(ren)</u>	<u>Participating?</u>
Douglas Keast	father	Alyssa	2. No, can't locate or is unavailable.
Parent's Current Address		Date of Birth	Phone Number

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Child(ren)</u>	<u>Participating?</u>
Brandon Holmes	father	Amber	6. Parent is deceased
Parent's Current Address		Date of Birth	Phone Number

I. LEGAL STATUS

A. Date of initial court wardship and type (if appropriate):

3/16/05 emergency

NEWAYGO COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT
2005 AUG 11 AM 11:45

B. Court date/outcome/requirements of court during report period:

4/13/05 preliminary
5/18/05 Dispositional

C. Next Court Date:

August 21, 2005 Review

II. REASONABLE EFFORTS

A. Services provided to or offered to child(ren), parent(s), guardian, or custodian, and non-parent adult(s), if applicable, to return the child(ren) home (unless the child is at home) or to finalize another permanency plan.

Services were not provided to prevent removal due to the emergent nature of the referral. The children were at imminent risk due to the drug bust of the parents in their home.

B. List the reasons why the agency believes that providing services for reunification are not "reasonable."

See above

C. If services were not provided, explain the reasons why the services were not provided.

See above

D. Likely harm to child(ren) if separated from, or returned to, a parent, guardian, or custodian.

The children will suffer from feeling of separation and loneliness. If returned they would suffer further neglect and abuse due to the parent's drug involvement.

III. SOCIAL WORK CONTACTS

Brian Vanderzalm was the primary caseworker on this case until 6/17/05 at which time I took over the case. Attached to the USP is Brian's summary addendum with contact dates.

DATE	CONTACT	WHOM
6/17/05	Cc	Brian Vanderzalm
6/20/05	CC	Brian Vanderzalm
6/22/05	TX, F2F TX	Barb and Tim Atwood Sr, Brian Vanderzalm Kim Atwood
6/23	TX F2F HV	Kim and Tim Atwood Jr. homestudy
6/24	LM TX F2F TX	Erica and Richard Kim ok to move kids this weekend - homestudy approved
6/28	F2F, TX	Visitation at DHS
6/30	TX TX TX LM	Tim Jr - kids impossible to manage want removed Nicole Coppes for placement Tim Sr. wants kids back - will appeal FCRB - no answer Grayling
7/1/05	TX F2F TX TX	Tim Atwood SR. not heard from FCRB - kids moved into foster care Nicole, Tim Jr., Alyssa and Amber - moved to foster care Erica (2 times)
7/5	F2F, TX	Visitation at DHS
7/8/05	TX F2F HV	Nicole, Alyssa and Amber - foster home visit

PROGRESS SUMMARY

A. Child(ren) Reassessment

1. Child Needs and Strengths and Current Status:

Around June 22nd two incidences happened that effected the children placement and caseworker. Brian Vanderzalm was promoted and I was put on the case as the case manager. Also on 6/22 the grandparents were informed of the agency's intent to remove the children. A CPS referral was made against the grandparents for physical abuse. This case was not substantiated, however more information was obtained regarding the appropriateness of the grand parents. Tim Atwood Sr. admitted to smoking marijuana with his daughter some time before the children were removed, but new information states that he recently asked his daughter to smoke marijuana with him. He also reportedly smokes pot on a daily basis and he hides his pot in the barn. Additional information indicated that he and his wife did not follow the case plan by allowing Erica to take the children on an unsupervised and unapproved visit. She took the kids over to her boyfriend's house and the children were not suppose to have any contact with the boyfriend. DHS informed the grandparents of the move on 6/22/05. They stated that their son would be willing to take the children in their home. On 6/23/05 a homestudy was conducted on the son, Tim Atwood Jr and they were approved for placement. Tim Sr called FCRB and filed an appeal, but he stated he would not appeal if the children were placed with his son. The children were placed with Tim Jr on 6/25/05. On 6/30 Tim Jr called reporting that the children were undisciplined and that he and his wife could not handle the children and requested removal. The children were placed in foster on 7/1/05. FCRB was notified and consulted and it was determined that the grandparents were going to be allowed their appeal. On 7/13/05 the FCRB held the appeal hearing they the board upheld the agency's decision to remove the children.

The children's needs and strength assessment has not changed since the last report period. Both of girls have strong need in the area of Emotional Behavior, Family and Kin/fictive kin, Education and Child Development.

Emotional Behavior

Both of the girls have emotional needs that are unique to them. Alyssa is very withdrawn and does not speak to or around strangers. She does not keep eye contact and will immediately look down when someone she does not know speaks to her. If she knows you then she will talk. She will stand and stare at the foster mom and not speak when she is making dinner. She is very quiet and half the time the foster mom does not know she is watching her because she is so quiet. Alyssa does not know how to play by herself or share with her sister. She and her sister get into numerous fights over toys. She also does not know what danger is and will wander away from the foster mom without permission.

Amber is very hyper and expressive. She does not follow direction and many times needs to be guided by her hand to do something that was asked of her. She does not know how to play and often instigates fights with her sister over a toy or attention from her

mom. She will be the first to hit her sister or say something mean. She also does not know of danger and will wander away from an adult and does not return upon the request of the foster parent. Amber has night terrors where she thrashes around while she is sleeping and sometimes she can not be awoken.

Family and Kin/Fictive Kin

Although the girls do not show much distress from being separated from their mom, they do talk about her and want to see her. Detachment at the end of the visit is without incident. The girls have been shuffled around in a short period of time between relatives and foster care.

Education

Although the girls are not in school at this time, they seemed to be behind in their normal age appropriate milestones. Alyssa will start school this fall and Amber hopefully will start preschool. They do not seem to be able to count very high and they do not know all of their colors and shape that children their age normally would know.

Child Development

Both of the girls seem to be behind in their social skills. Neither child can play independently or together without fighting or arguing over sharing a toy. Amber has tendency to just take stuff that does not belong to her and Alyssa rarely will defend herself against her sister.

Strengths for both girls are Medical, Substance Abuse and Cultural/Community

2. Placement Information:

a. Placement Selection Criteria:

- b. ☐ The child remains in the same placement as the previous plan. None of the criteria have changed.

See Above

3. Placement Resources

a. Sibling Placement

Siblings placed together

b. Sibling and Kinship Visitation

N/A

c. Kinship Resources and Placement

All relatives were considered, but they turned out not to be appropriate or the relative excused themselves from placement.

d. Best Interests of Current Placement

The current placement is the least restrictive and the most family like setting.

e. Difficulty of Care Justification

Both girls received a DOC level of I

Alyssa

Behavior - 45

On a constant basis the foster parent has to monitor her activities because she cannot be trusted to do what is asked of her. They need to be redirected often. They do not play well with her sister and everytime the foster mom has to intercede between the sister's because they are arguing with each other over a toy. They do not know what danger is and they will wander away from an adult without permission. Amber is the same way except she is much more hyper and verbal. She often will be the first to hit her sister or just take a toy away without permission.

Mental Health - 14

Alyssa and Amber

A referral was made to CMH for the girls to receive services to help with their behavior management and counsel. The foster parent will be participating at least twice per month.

4. Residential Care

N/A

5. The permanency planning goal for the children) is Permanent Foster Family Agreement, Independent living, or Custodial Care

a. Efforts to Place in Kinship Network:

N/A

b. Compelling Reasons:

N/A

B. Foster Parent/Kinship Caregiver Input

Foster parent states the girls are pretty good, but they need to be watched on a constant basis. If the girls go outside to play both of them at separate times will come into the house crying and blaming each other for something. They do not know how to play or be alone.

Household 1 of 1

C. Reunification Assessment

1. Household Name

Erica Keast

Is this the Household Children Were Removed
From? (Y/N)

Yes

2. CPS Investigation Incident This Period? (Select One) None

3. Individual Barrier Reduction Assessment:

Parent / Caretaker Progress Towards Reduction of Primary Barriers to Reunification

Primary Barriers

Emotional Stability
Parenting Skills
Substance Abuse
Domestic Relations

Progress Evaluation

4. Overall Barrier Reduction Assessment

- ☐ a. Yes, Caretaker(s) have substantially reduced barriers.
☐ b. Yes, Caretaker(s) have made partial progress in reducing barriers.
☐ c. No, Caretaker(s) progress is poor or they have refused services and barriers have not been reduced.

5. Parenting Time Assessment

Parent / Caretaker
Erica

Progress Evaluation
Partial

6. Reunification Assessment Narrative

Services have just begun for Erica, therefore scoring her on the barrier to reunification is premature. She is very cooperative and does express a sincere willingness to do what is necessary to get her kids back. She seems to be honest and accepting responsibility for her substance abuse and the behaviors of the children. She has remain clean on all her random drug test as well. Erica's strength and need assessment indicated a need in the following areas: Emotional stability, parenting skills, Substance abuse, domestic relations, social support system, employment and physical health issues.

Emotional stability

This is also a barrier to reunification. Although Erica seems to have shown emotional stability so far, she has a long history of depression and poor coping skills. She is a substance abuser and when things get tough she has a tendency to use drug to cope.

Parenting Skills

This is also a barrier to reunification. Erica lacks follow through is disciplining the children. She allows Amber to get away with her temper tantrum and does not redirect her or discipline her. By the behavior of the girls it is apparent the Erica has failed to provide them with a safe and consistent environment, where they feel safe and trust the adults in their life. Erica has talked about the men in her life being abusive to her and the children and also being substance abuser.

Substance Abuse

This is also a barrier to reunification. Her children were taken away due to a drug bust in her home. She also has admitted to a

long history of substance abuse. All the men in her life have been substance abusers as well.

Domestic Relations

This is a barrier to reunification

Erica has a history of picking abusive men. The two father's of her children were abusive to her and abused drugs.

Social Support

Erica stated her parents were a good support for her but now this relationship has deteriorated. She has no other people for support other than her current boyfriend.

Employment

She is unemployed, but applied to SSI for disability assistance.

Physical Health

She has been diagnosed with MS and her physical health will deteriorate as she gets older.

Her strengths are Communication, Literacy and Intellectual.

7. Is a Safety Assessment of this household required?

- a. ☐ Yes, both (parenting time and overall barrier reduction) are Substantial
- b. ☐ Yes, both (parenting time and overall barrier reduction) are Partial
- c. ☐ Yes, one is Substantial, one is Partial
- d. ☐ No, either is Poor or Refused

8. Safety Assessment Results

Safety assessment was not conducted as the services to reduce the barriers have just been implemented.

9. Permanency Planning Decision Guideline Recommendation:

The permanency plan at this time is reunification.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT

A. Permanency Planning Hearing

☐ Yes ☒ No This recommendation applies to ALL children

Recommendation for: Alyssa and Amber

- 1. ☒ This USP is not prepared for the Permanency Planning Hearing.
- 2. ☐ This USP is prepared for the Permanency Planning Hearing and the agency is recommending that the child(ren) be returned to the home of the parent(s).
- 3. ☐ This USP is prepared for the Permanency Planning Hearing and the agency is recommending termination of parental rights.
- 4. ☐ This USP is prepared for the Permanency Planning Hearing and the agency is not recommending termination of parental rights.

Compelling Reasons

- a. ☐ The child is age 14 or over and refuses to consent to his/her adoption.
- b. ☐ Child in custodial care and treatment services are not yet completed.
- c. ☐ The youth is age 18 or over.
- d. ☐ The supervising agency has not yet provided the services detailed in the prior service plans to make reunification possible.
- e. ☐ Other.
- f. ☐ The parent suffers from a chronic illness and the child is unable to return to the home, but there continues to be a close relationship between the child and parent.
- g. ☐ There are financial benefits for the child to maintaining parental rights.
- h. ☐ There is an appropriate kinship caregiver to care for the child and the kinship caregiver is not willing to adopt the child.
- i. ☐ Child is an unaccompanied refugee minor.

B. Recommended Court Orders

It is respectfully recommended that Alyssa and Amber Keast remain temporary court wards under supervision of Newaygo County DHS and the Erica Keast continue to cooperate and following the parent/agency agreement.

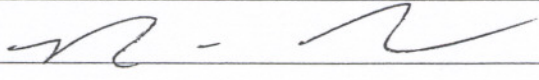
Prepared and Approved by:

Name and Title: Kathy Sholty, Foster Care Worker

Signature: 

Date: 7/14/05

Name and Title: Lori Schultz

Signature: 

Date: 8/10/05

Distribution of Plan:

FIA Local Office Name: _____

Date Sent: _____

FIA Local Office Approval:

Name and Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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AUTHORITY: P.A. 280 of 1939.
RESPONSE: Voluntary.
PENALTY: None